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affected by a wide variety of human activities and land uses. Moreover, ground water is affected by and, in turn, affects all other environmental media—land, surface water, and air. Consequently, a strong, coherent intergovernmental program is essential in protecting ground water.

6. Effective Implementation and Adequate Funding

Ground water protection programs must have adequate authority and resources and stable institutional structures to be effective. These must include (a) adequate legal authority to take action; (b) adequate long-term funding in light of the seriousness of the ground water problem and efforts necessary to reach objectives; (c) sufficient personnel with adequate training, expertise, and skills and with an ongoing program for professional development; and (d) funding mechanisms and strategies to sustain activity overtime.

7. Economic, Social, Political, and Environmental Impacts

A preventive program is based on the assumption that prevention of ground water contamination is the least costly protection strategy in the long run. Therefore, protective actions should be evaluated in terms of their economic, social, political, and environmental impacts. The following factors should be weighed: (a) the feasibility and costs of control, the value of the resource to be protected; (b) the alternative sources, land uses, and environmental and economic impacts that would result from controls; and (c) the potential effects on public health and the environment.

8. Public Support and Responsiveness

Ground water programs must be responsive and credible to interested groups of people and to the general public. Programs should (a) foster public understanding and support, (b) involve the public in program design and evaluation, (c) balance expeditious exercise of authority and consultation with affected parties, and (d) consider the equity of the distribution of benefits, costs, and burdens and the relative ability of various classes and groups )f people to bear them.